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MEDIA NOTE

International Donors' Conference Towards a New Future for Haiti

The United States, in cooperation with the Government of Haiti, will join the United Nations in co-hosting a ministerial-level *International Donors' Conference Towards a New Future for Haiti* on March 31, 2010 in New York at UN Headquarters. After the outpouring of global support for the immediate needs of the people and Government of Haiti following the devastating earthquake on January 12, attention is now turning to the longer-term recovery and reconstruction needs of the country, even while the relief effort continues.

The International Donors' Conference will be an opportunity for the international community to pledge new financial assistance to help Haiti rebuild, and to mobilize a truly global and sustained international effort to partner with Haiti. The Conference will focus on pledges of assistance for recovery and development, as distinct from the humanitarian assistance so generously provided by over 140 donors so far.

Priorities for assistance will be set by the Government of Haiti, which will present its strategy for recovery based on input from a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment led by the Government with the joint support of the United Nations, World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, European Commission, and major donors.

This Donors' Conference is just one step in mobilizing the broad international support that the government and people of Haiti must have in order to realize their vision of a stronger, vibrant Haiti emerging from this tragedy. We are proud to contribute to a broad-based effort that will integrate public and private international assistance with the contributions of a vigorous Haitian private sector, active engagement of non-governmental organizations, and widespread civic engagement. Preparation for the International Donors' Conference thus includes broad-based consultations with key constituencies, including Haitian civil society, the Haitian Diaspora, the private sector, Haitian state and local government, non-governmental organizations, and stakeholders in the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Representatives from these consultations will report back to the plenary of the International Donors' Conference.

The United States is pleased to be partnering with the United Nations in this effort in the interests of mobilizing a truly global response on behalf of Haiti.

CONFERENCE DETAILS

The International Donors' Conference will be co-hosted by the United States and United Nations, in cooperation with the Government of Haiti. The Conference will be co-chaired by Brazil, Canada, the European Union, France, and Spain as leading donors to Haiti. The Conference will be held at UN

Headquarters in New York on March 31, 2010. Delegations are encouraged to be represented at the ministerial level and will be invited to make brief statements summarizing their new pledges of recovery and reconstruction assistance. The Conference will be webcast live with select sessions open to other media.

Further details for delegations will be forthcoming in correspondence from the United Nations Office of Conference Services and will also be available through the UN Journal

Participants will be asked to pre-register for the Conference through the Conference website. Detailed information on how to register, along with technical details on pledge content and how to register pledges, will be forthcoming from UNDP.

Please note that this event is an opportunity for UN member states to register national pledges of assistance to Haiti. Private sector donors and others will have alternative opportunities to register their offers of assistance. Unfortunately, capacity considerations must limit the opportunity to pledge assistance during the event on March 31 to UN member states, international organizations, and representatives selected to report from the outreach consultations. .

PREPARATORY PROCESS

Conference preparations include a series of outreach consultations with Haitian civil society (over the preceding weeks, organized by the United Nation's Office of the UN Special Envoy to Haiti, MINUSTAH, NGO's, and local community groups), the private sector (March 15, in Haiti, organized by the Inter-American Development Bank), the Haitian Diaspora (March 21-23, in Washington, D.C., organized by the Organization of American States), Haitian state and local government (March 23, in Martinique, organized by the Government of France), stakeholders to MINUSTAH (March 23, in New York, organized by the Government of Brazil and the Government of Haiti), and non-governmental organizations (March 25, in New York, organized by the Office of the UN Special Envoy to Haiti, InterAction, and the European Commission).

The Conference will also be preceded by a closed Preparatory Technical Meeting on March 15-17 in Santo Domingo, co-hosted by the Government of the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

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